

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6826

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PARIS 1223

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP FR

SUBJECT: VICE PRESIDENTIAL VISIT

REF: PARIS 00591

1. GOF ENTHUSIASTICALLY WELCOMES PROPOSED VISIT FRANCE VICE PRESIDENT AND MRS. ROCKEFELLER. PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING WILL HOST LUNCHEON AT ELYSEE PALACE FOR THEM MONDAY MARCH 22. GOF HAS ASSURED US OF FULL COOPERATION AND HELP ALL ASPECTS OF VISIT.

2. TAKING ACCOUNT THIS INVITATION AND VICE PRESIDENT'S DESIRES REFTEL HERE IS OUTLINE OF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MARCH 21 AND 22 FOLLOWING EVENING ARRIVAL MMARCH 20.

3. DAY OF SUNDAY MARCH 21 AT OPTION OF VICE PRESIDENT FOR PERSONAL TIME OR VISIT TO CHATEAU VERSAILLES WITH RESTORATION OF WHICH HIS FAMILY SO INTIMATELY CONNECTED. SUCH EXCURSION COULD BE DONE IN AS LITTLE AS TOTAL THREE HOURS INCLUDING TRAVEL BUT COULD INCLUDE LUNCH AND SOMEWHAT LONGER VISIT IF VICE PRESIDENT WISHES. VISIT COULD BE EITHER PRIVATE OR FOR LIMITED PRESS AND TV COVERAGE.

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4. WREATH-LAYING AT TOMB LAFAYETTE, PRINCIPAL SYMBOL

FRANCO-AMERICAN COOPERATION DURING AMERICAN
REVOLUTION, HIGHLY DESIRABLE AND MAY BE POSSIBLE LATE
SUNDAY AFTERNOON BUT BECAUSE OF LOCAL TRADITIONS MAY
BE PREFERABLE FOR DAY FOLLOWING (SEE BELOW). PRESS
AND TV COVERAGE.

5. SUNDAY EVENING APPROXIMATELY SIX TO EIGHT P.M.
RECEPTION AT AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE FOR TWO TO THREE
HUNDRED INVITED FRENCH AND AMERICANS. PRIVATE DINNER
WITH MRS. RUSH AND ME AT RESIDENCE UNLESS VICE
PRESIDENT WISHES TO SEE OTHER FRIENDS.

6. MONDAY, 11:00 A.M., ON RECORD PRESS CONFERENCE
WITH ALL MEDIA. WITH NECESSITY ACCOMMODATE BOTH
FRENCH AND AMERICAN PRESS AND ELECTRONIC MEDIA AND
INTERPRETATION, RECOMMEND ALLOWING 45 MINUTES TO ONE
HOUR FOR COMPREHENSIVE EXPOSURE TO MEDIA.

7. MONDAY, APPROXIMATELY 1:00 P.M., LUNCHEON BY
PRESIDENT OF FRANCE, NUMBER OF GUESTS NOT YET KNOWN,
OUR GUESS IS IN RANGE OF UP TO FORTY IF PRESIDENT
GISCARD FOLLOWS USUAL INCLINATIONS TO AVOID LARGE
EVENTS BUT SCHEDULE SMALLER NUMBER MORE MEANINGFUL
GUESTS.

8. MONDAY APPROXIMATELY 4:00 P.M. WREATH-LAYING AT
LAFAYETTE TOMB IF NOT ALREADY ACCOMPLISHED SUNDAY
(SEE PARAGRAPH 4 ABOVE).

9. MONDAY 8:00 P.M. BICENTENNIAL BANQUET TO BE
SPONSORED JOINTLY BY GROUPING OF FRANCO-AMERICAN AND
AMERICAN ORGANIZATIONS MOST OF WHOM ALREADY ASSOCIATED
IN AD HOC BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE. WOULD BE HELD IN
BANQUET ROOMS OF ONE OF PRINCIPAL PARIS HOTELS ABLE
TO ACCOMMODATE SEVERAL HUNDRED AT DINNER. VICE
PRESIDENT WOULD BE EXPECTED TO MAKE PRINCIPAL SPEECH
ON SOME ASPECT AMERICAN BICENTENNIAL.

10. WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR VICE PRESIDENT'S REACTIONS
TO ABOVE, AT LEAST IN PRINCIPLE. MARCH IS ONE OF MOST
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HEAVILY SCHEDULED MONTHS OF YEAR IN PARIS AND WE HOPE
FOR MAXIMUM TIME FOR PREPARATIONS.
RUSH

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